

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**CWLWM CELTAIDD 09**  
**The 8<sup>TH</sup> Annual Celtic Festival of Wales**

Sponsored by **The Felinfoel Brewery Co.Ltd.**  
(Brewers of “**Double Dragon**”)

with support from **BCBC Tourism Unit & Capital Regional Tourism**  
**March 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 2009**  
Porthcawl, South Wales

For the 8<sup>th</sup> year, singers, musicians and dancers from all the Celtic countries will be descending on the South Wales seaside resort of Porthcawl for **Cwlwm Celtaidd, *The Celtic Festival of Wales***, a great festival of concerts, dances, sessions, workshops, craft fair & “Parade of the Celts” through the streets of the town centre.

The Festival is once again sponsored by Felinfoel Brewery with the support of Bridgend CBC and Capital Region Tourism.

The festival gets off to fantastic start on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> with a special opening concert at The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, featuring the globetrotting Red Hot Chilli Pipers, amazing winners of the BBCs “When Will I Be Famous” national talent competition. The band has been thrilling huge audiences worldwide from USA to Beijing with musicianship and a passion for bagpipes that will leave you breathless. Supporting will be the City of Newcastle Pipers, making up a great concert with a Scottish flavour.

Wales is well represented this year, with no less than four of this year’s acts - **Mabon**, **Calan**, **Allan Yn Y Fan & Brigyn** - having recently made it onto a compilation CD of the 12 of the best from Wales, produced by the Welsh Music Foundation, and recently released at the huge Womex Music Trade Fair event in Seville, Spain. Another of this year’s acts, singer/guitarist **Gwyneth Glyn**, has been included in the top 12 “World Music from Wales” artists compiled by Wales Arts International. **Mabon** also made this list. Bridgend based **Mabon**, who’s latest CD “OK Pewter” has received 5-Star reviews worldwide, are now established as one of the world’s most exciting live & original Celtic music bands and in 2008 alone toured Mexico, Italy, France, Poland & the UK. They will headline a strong Wales Night on Saturday, along with **Calan**, a new group of great young musicians who are making huge waves on TV and radio.

Making up an impressive line-up are **One String Loose**(2007 finalists in the BBC Young Folk Awards); veteran Irish traditional singer **Gerry Nash** and singer songwriter **Colum Regan**; Scotland’s beautiful singing sisters **The Midden** and Scottish harpist **Rachel Hair**(who will be joined by the talented Gaelic songstress and Pan-Celtic stepdance champion **Joy Dunlop**). Making a return visit is the Breton powerhouse band **Gwelloc’h** & one of the most asked for groups from the festival’s feedback from, Manx legends **The Mollag Band**.

And there’s more, with **The Harriet Earris Trio** bringing a taste of their celtic/jazz fusion sounds to Porthcawl.

Many dance groups will also be in Porthcawl during the weekend, especially on Saturday when the **Parade Of The Celts** takes place from midday along John Street in the town centre. More than 200 musicians, singers and dancers will provide the colour and spectacle, leading back to Salt Lake Green to the Craft fair field and the main festival in Coney Beach.

New for this year is an open access marquee and Craft Fair on Salt Lake Green, next to the main beach car park.

All in all, the festival, situated on the seafront in South Wales' beautiful Heritage Coast, promises to be a great family weekend with inexpensive self-catered mobile homes(heated!) available and for the first time, space for camper vans and caravans.

Full details from [www.cwlmceltaidd.com](http://www.cwlmceltaidd.com)

Festival Info: 01656 766667

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